



Legal Beat

April 2013

News and Notes on the D.C. Bar Legal Community

By Kathryn Alfisi and Thai Phi Le

D.C. Courts Release New Strategic Plan

In February the District of Columbia Courts released its third strategic plan that lays out the court system's goals and priorities for the next five years.

Titled "Open to All, Trusted by All, Justice for All: Strategic Plan of the District of Columbia Courts, 2013–2017," the strategic plan focuses on five key areas to help the courts navigate a "changing terrain."

"This plan will enable us to build on the successes of our previous plans as we continue to enhance our ability to serve our community," said D.C. Court of Appeals Chief Judge Eric T. Washington, chair of the Joint Committee on Judicial Administration.

The five main goals outlined in the strategic plan are fair and timely case resolution, access to justice, a strong judiciary and workforce, a sound infrastructure, and public trust and confidence in the courts.

The strategic plan also includes an updated statement of court values, which describes how the courts achieve its purpose, or the means and methods of accomplishing its work. Those values are accountability, excellence, fairness, integrity, respect, and transparency.

"The D.C. Courts constantly strive to improve our service to the public—through timely decision making, improved access, and fair procedures. This plan will help us to take our successes to another level, as we integrate key court values throughout our processes," said D.C. Superior Court Chief Judge Lee F. Satterfield.

For more information on the strategic plan, visit www.dccourts.gov/internet/about/orgperf/strategic-2013-2017.jsf. —K.A.